

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The examiner's amendment, and allowance, issued 2/12/2010 are incorporated by reference below. In view of the newly submitted IDS, the claims as indicated by examiner's amendment are found to be allowable, as the documents cited in the recently submitted IDS are by the same inventive entity, and have not been published more than 1 year prior to the filing date that the application claims benefit to (or even 1 year prior to the PCT document). As such, the document that is submitted in the IDS cannot be used to reject the claims as presented in the prior examiner's amendment, and the case is in condition for allowance.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Brody on 1/28/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

59. A laminating method of forming a laminate layer on a recording surface of a recording medium, comprising:

laying a laminate material having a size larger than the recording medium over the same and thermally press bonding them together; and

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~~transferring a laminate layer of the laminate material onto the recording surface of the recording medium by the thermal press bonding, and transferring the laminate layer protruding outwards from the recording medium onto a transfer medium means that is disposed on the side of the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface to be capable of being moved away from the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface;~~

wherein the transfer medium means is moved towards the side of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface and separated so as to cut a laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the recording surface away from a non-laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the transfer medium means.

60. (Cancelled)

61. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the laminate material having a sheet-like substrate peelably laminated to the laminate layer is used and the substrate is peeled off from the laminate layer of the thermally press bonded laminate material.

68. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein an under film is used as the transfer medium means, and at least one of the laminate material and the under film is preheated prior to the thermally press bonding.

69. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the transfer medium means is separated upon elapse of a given time after the thermally press bonding.

73. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the speed at which the transfer medium means is separated is lowered for at least a leading edge side of the leading edge side and a tailing edge side of the recording medium in a separating direction of the transfer medium means.

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75. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein a sheet-like transfer medium material is used as the transfer medium means and the transfer medium material is moved away from the recording medium in a direction obliquely thereto.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEITH T. AZIZ whose telephone number is (571)270-7658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00am-6:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski can be reached on (571)272-1127. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KTA/

/KAT WYROZEBSKI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791